

CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Historical Items Always Welcome
& Credit Given To Contributors.



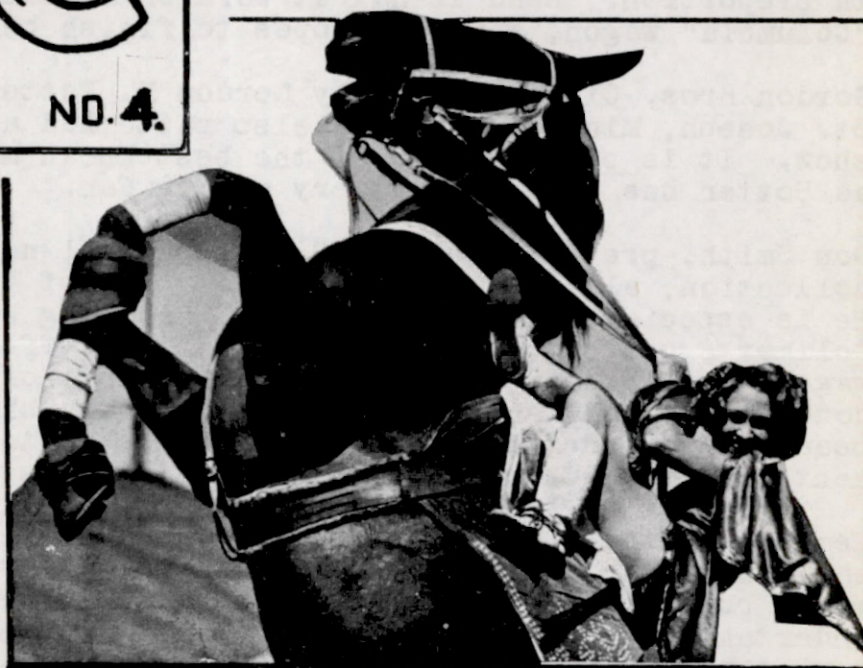
CHS

SALUTES

THE

MODEL

BUILDERS



Miss Dorothy Herbert, featured rider of Cole Bros. Circus, who has been appointed CHS Representative on that show. Dorothy has agreed to give information on CHS to interested fans and performers during the balance of the season.

-Photo by Don Smith

All forms of Circus Collecting have shown a definite gain in the past several years, but we do not hesitate to say that Circus Model Building is now the fastest growing Hobby in America.

Hundreds of Fans are taking up this interesting pastime, and no home is complete without a baggage wagon, or a cage, or a calliope, as the case may be.

Among the finest shows to come to our attention are the following, altho' there are doubtless many others which deserve mention, including Robt. D. Good, Kenny Audibert, Backstein, Taggart, and Graf, etc.

In Detroit, there is the model of "Buffalo Bill Wild West and Pawnee Bill Far East Shows Combined", now being completed by Jean Leroy. Outstanding pieces of the "2 Bill Show" include the beautiful #1 Bandwagon, finely carved and painted in natural colors. This is drawn by a matched team of 10 Dunn Greys, and a big show Circus band sits in playing position between it's skypieces. Other attractive wagons on this show are the Steam Calliope, (similar to that used by Cole Bros. in 1937) and the "Our Country" wagon, on which a pair of

live buffalo once rode in parade. Stage coach, covered wagon, and all baggage equipment round out this show, complete with recognizable personnel.

Also in Detroit, is "Head's Big Three Ring Circus", which follows mostly the older Ringling style of show; having a big top 10 x 18 feet, with all regulation poles, and seats, stringers, and stakes in proportion. Head is now at work on a beautiful model of the "Columbia" wagon, which he hopes to finish before mid-summer.

Gordon Bros. Circus, owned by Gordon M. Potter, has quarters in St. Joseph, Michigan, and is also patterned after the Ringling Bros. show. It is probably one of the best known miniatures in the country, as Potter has long been a very active Fan.

Don Smith, president of C H S, has several noted wagons in his collection, altho' a more recent devotee of the Model Builders art. He is especially proud of the 1901 Ringling Bros. Calliope, and a Gollmar Bros. cage, which were his first efforts in the hobby. Smith's wagons are laid out from photographs, most of the carpenter work being done by his Dad, and final painting by Don himself. He also has a beautiful solid model of the Big Show's white ticket wagon, which was mentioned in a Saturday Evening Post article recently.

Members of the C H S who are able, will be pleased to supply photos, and other information, on Circus wagons and equipment for the use of model builders. We welcome all suggestions and assistance in this undertaking. Write Don Smith, Box 246, Farmington, Michigan.

Robert Danner, Muncie Indiana model builder, and president of the CMB & OA was one of the charter members of CHS, and many other members are listed from coast to coast. We trust that the two societies may continue the friendly relations of the past, to the mutual benefit of both, in the future, and hope that it may soon be possible for us to meet in joint convention, at a central point.

notes On COLE BROS. CIRCUS, 1941.

It was mighty swell, the way Zack Terrell's Circus greeted members of the Circus Historical Society on their lots in Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana. Detroit was the great visiting center and all but one member from the Wolverine State was on hand to see the show in the motor city. Walt Pietschman was all over the place with his flash bulbs, while Don Smith shot the show in color film for intended goodwill lectures next winter. Meyers brought his miniature circus from Ann Arbor--and we DO mean MINIATURE, for each tiny wagon is no larger than an ordinary safety match box! Zack Terrell was greatly interested in the several model wagons displayed on the lot by our Detroit enthusiasts, and consented to be photographed with these in the backyard. (Photo is a part of this issue). Those Fans who have been crying for HORSES on a Circus should see Cole Bros. without fail. Never have we seen such beautiful horseflesh as on this show and the liberty acts (especially those ponies of Adolph Delbosq's) leave the crowds cheering at the end. It is advertised this year, as America's Favorite Show, but it could just as well be called America's Friendly Show, for it is exactly that, from front door to backyard--from Mr. and Mrs. Terrell to the newest performer or groom. Let's go to the Circus---COLE BROS. CIRCUS !!!

Don Smith.



BARNUM'S TRAVELLING WORLD'S FAIR, MUSEUM
MENAGERIE & CIRCUS - 1873

By P. M. Silloway, CHS.

Although I saw the original Barnum show about every year after its initial tour as a railroad circus in 1872, until it was combined with other organizations, there were two occasions that stand out as gala days in my experience as a budding and youthful circus fan. The first of these was on or about July 4th, 1873, when Barnum's Travelling World's Fair, then the eighth wonder of the world, exhibited at Bloomington, Illinois.

It is a matter of history that a disastrous fire at Barnum's Museum head-quarters in New York City, late in December, 1872, almost totally destroyed the 65-car show which toured the northern states East of the Mississippi in 1872. Notwithstanding, in the first week of April, 1873, Barnum's Travelling World's Fair, Museum, Menagerie and Circus opened with a bigger and better show, using 95 railroad cars. Such a miracle of enterprise has never since been duplicated, though somewhat paralleled by Messrs. Zack Terrell and Jess Adkins, when after almost their entire Circus outfit was destroyed by fire at winter-quarters in February 1940, they went on the road in April with a Circus and Menagerie which was runner-up to the Big Show.

Speaking of "big shows", I am inclined to the opinion that the Barnum's World's Fair, Museum, Menagerie and Circus of 1873 and 1874, in extent of quality exhibits in each and all of its various departments, should be ranked as the biggest and best show of all time. In the Museum were most of the freaks and curiosities which gave P. T. Barnum the reputation of the master show-man of the world. In the menagerie were specimens of wild men and beasts, and rare animals from the African and Asiatic jungles which cannot be collected or exhibited to-day at any price, and in the circus programme were the names of international celebrities as the leading equestrians and acrobats of worldwide fame. W. C. Coup was Barnum's general manager of this colossal aggregation, and Dan Costello was the equestrian director of the circus.

(Cont'd. next page)



TODAY
IS

CIRCUS DAY
IN ———?

MY ROUTE CARD TELLS YOU!

CHAS. CAMPBELL, BOX 301,
SYLVA, N.C.

COLE BROS.
CIRCUS

USES



DON SMITH PHOTOS.

— WHY DON'T YOU? —

BOX 246 - FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN

BARNUM - 1873 (cont'd)

By P.M.Silloway CHS.

My grandparents on my mother's side, with two families of uncles, aunts and cousins, were living in Bloomington, Illinois, at the time, and my mother with the children were visiting there. One uncle lived near the Illinois Central R. R. tracks, over which the show came into the city. For family prejudices against the circus, and shows in general, I did not get inside the mighty big top on that day; however, under plea of visiting with cousins in another part of the city, I spent most of the day roaming about the showgrounds and viewing the world of wonders to be seen on the outside. From ten o'clock until noon the immense parade was coming on to the lot, and there was everything there to excite my boyish curiosity. Barnum himself divided his time that season partly with the show and visiting in the East, and it happened that he was not with the aggregation on that day.

It was not until about ten years later, as I recall it, that I saw P. T. Barnum in person with the show, then under the management of Messrs: Bailey and Hutchinson, exhibiting at Blooming Illinois. My recollection is that it was around July 4th and a tremendously warm day. I was visiting my parents then living there, and this time I saw everything, taking Dad and a sister to the matinee performance. At one P. M. there were thronging thousands on the show grounds, all pushing and crowding toward the ticket wagon near the main entrance. Long excursion trains had come to the city with hundreds of eager circus goers. This was the year when the show had representatives of wild men from every uncivilized quarter of the globe, all riding on the tops of the parade vans and cages in the two mile parade. Such a parade has never been duplicated or since witnessed.

I had learned from the local newspaper that the distinguished show man was with the show that season, and usually appeared on the midway each show day in person. With eyes for nothing else, I elbowed my way toward the main entrance, and located the celebrity sitting in an open carriage or barouche, with his intimate attendants. I pushed forward until I was standing almost within touch of the vehicle, where I could get a good view of the world's foremost man of that time. As I recall his appearance, he was a rosy-cheeked, smooth-faced, person with black hair, and rather stout in build. He was garbed in clerical or professional black, and wore a large black hat. To me his countenance seemed to have a benign expression and I judged him to be a kindly natured person. I was so engrossed with my study of the great showman that I almost forgot the main show and had time for merely a casual glance at the surpassing wonders of the museum and menagerie before going into the circus big top.

Strange as it may seem, I cannot now recall a single feature of the performance in the circus arena. I only remember that there was a tremendous crowd in attendance, in a seating capacity of 15000, and after notices the next day reported that over 2,000 had been turned away from the night show.

CHS approved letterheads with elephant cut and your own name and address are now available from W.W.GREEN, 312 NORTH C STREET, WASHINGTON, Kansas. \$1.00 per Hundred, postpaid. Be a CHS BOOSTER !!!!!